

Appl. No. 09/608,986
Amdt. dated September 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8-27 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2005, the Examiner withdrew claims 14-15 pursuant to a restriction requirement. The Examiner also rejected claims 8-13 and 16-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner imposed an election/restriction requirement in the present case on grounds that "claims 14-15 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed." Office Action, p. 2. The Office Action further noted that the remaining claims—*i.e.*, claims 8-13 and 16-27—have been "constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits." *Id.* at p. 3. By this paper, Applicants respectfully affirm their election to have claims 8-13 and 16-27 (*i.e.*, the claims indicated as "Group II") prosecuted in the present case. As such, claims 14 and 15 have been formally withdrawn by the present paper.

II. Rejection of Claims 8, 12, 16-17, 24, 26-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 8-12, 16-22 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,657,390 to Elgamal *et al.* (hereinafter "Elgamal") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,816,900 issued to Vogel *et al.* (hereinafter "Vogel") and in further view of the article by Samar entitled "Single Sign-On Using Cookies for Web Applications" (hereinafter "Samar"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The M.P.E.P. states that

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally,

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the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

The initial burden is on the examiner to provide some suggestion of the desirability of doing what the inventor has done. To support the conclusion that the claimed invention is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed invention or the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references.

M.P.E.P. § 2142.

Applicants respectfully assert that the present claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. Specifically, the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitation that are required by the present claims. For example independent claims 8 and 16 each recite a method "for providing a single sign-on authentication and privacy" which includes the step of "verifying the submitted certificate with a trusted certificate, wherein the verifying step is performed by a security extension in a server and operates to verify a certificate sent from a client to the server." Likewise, independent claims 24 and 26 are claims for an apparatus "comprising a computer-readable storage medium having executable instructions that enable the computer to," among other things, "verify the submitted certificate with a trusted certificate, wherein such verifying is performed by a security extension in a server and operates to verify a certificate sent from a client to the server." Support for these limitations are found throughout Applicants' specification including, for example, page 8, lines 3-18.

Such limitations are not taught or suggested by the combined teachings of Elgamal, Vogel, or Samar. As noted by the Office Action, the reference which allegedly teaches the step of "verifying the submitted certificate with a trusted certificate" is Vogel. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that

Elgamal lacks disclosure of implementation-specific verification of the submitted certificate. However, Vogel teaches that in an SSL session, a certificate is verified using a root certificate/trusted

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certificate to prove that the server is approved for secure connections
(col. 1, lines 30-40).

Office Action, p. 4. To the extent that the Examiner is correct in asserting that Vogel teaches the limitation of "verifying the submitted certificate with a trusted certificate," Vogel clearly does not teach a system in which the "verifying step is performed by a security extension in a server and operates to verify a certificate sent from a client to the server," as is required by the present claims. On the contrary, Vogel teaches a system in which the "verification" occurs at the client computer and that such verification is performed on a certificate that has been sent from the server to the client. See Vogel, Col., 1, lines 30-40. In fact, this passage of Vogel explicitly teaches:

The SSL protocol uses a public key infrastructure to maintain security. In establishing an SSL connection between a client computer and a server computer hosting a web page, *the server computer transmits a certificate to the client computer for verification*. If a trusted certifying authority has approved the server computer (or web page) for secure connections, then a *root certificate that is maintained at the client* and issued by a root certifying authority (CA) will verify the certificate received from the server.

Vogel, Col. 1, lines 30-40 (emphasis added).

Accordingly because Vogel and the other cited references fails to teach the limitation that the "verifying" "is performed by a security extension in a server and operates to verify a certificate sent from a client to the server," these references clearly does not teach or suggest all of the limitations found in independent claims 8, 16, 24, and 26. Accordingly, these references cannot be used to reject these independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-13 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Claims 17-23 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 26. Claim 25 depends directly from claim 24. Claim 27 depends directly from claim 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of

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claims 9-13, 17-23, 25 and 27 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 8, 16, 24, and 26.

III. Rejection of Claim 13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Elgamal in view of Vogel and Samar and in further view of Applied Cryptography, Second Edition by Schneier (hereinafter "Schneier"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, a claim cannot be rejected as being prima facie obvious unless all of the claim limitations are taught or suggested by the prior art references. See MPEP § 2143.03. In the present case, claim 13 depends from independent claim 1. Accordingly, like independent claim 1, claim 13 contains the limitation that the "verifying step" "is performed by a security extension in a server and operates to verify a certificate sent from a client to the server." As explained in greater detail above, this limitation is not taught by Vogel, Elgamal or Samar. Likewise, Applicants can find no disclosure in Schneier that relates to this claim limitation.

Accordingly, this combination of references does not teach or suggest all of the limitations found in claim 13 and this claim cannot be rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claim 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Elgamal in view of Vogel and Samar and in further view of Handbook of Applied Cryptography by Menezes *et al.* (hereinafter "Menezes"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, a claim cannot be rejected as being prima facie obvious unless all of the claim limitations are taught or suggested by the prior art references. See MPEP § 2143.03. In the present case, claim 23 depends from independent claim 16. Accordingly, like independent claim 16, claim 23 contains the limitation that the "verifying step" "is performed by a security extension in a

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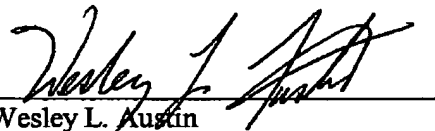
server and operates to verify a certificate sent from a client to the server.” As explained in greater detail above, this limitation is not taught by Vogel, Elgamal or Samar. Likewise, Applicants can find no disclosure in Menezes that relates to this claim limitation.

Accordingly, this combination of references does not teach or suggest all of the limitations found in claim 23 and this claim cannot be rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 26, 2005

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